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WAR PICTURE LIBRARY

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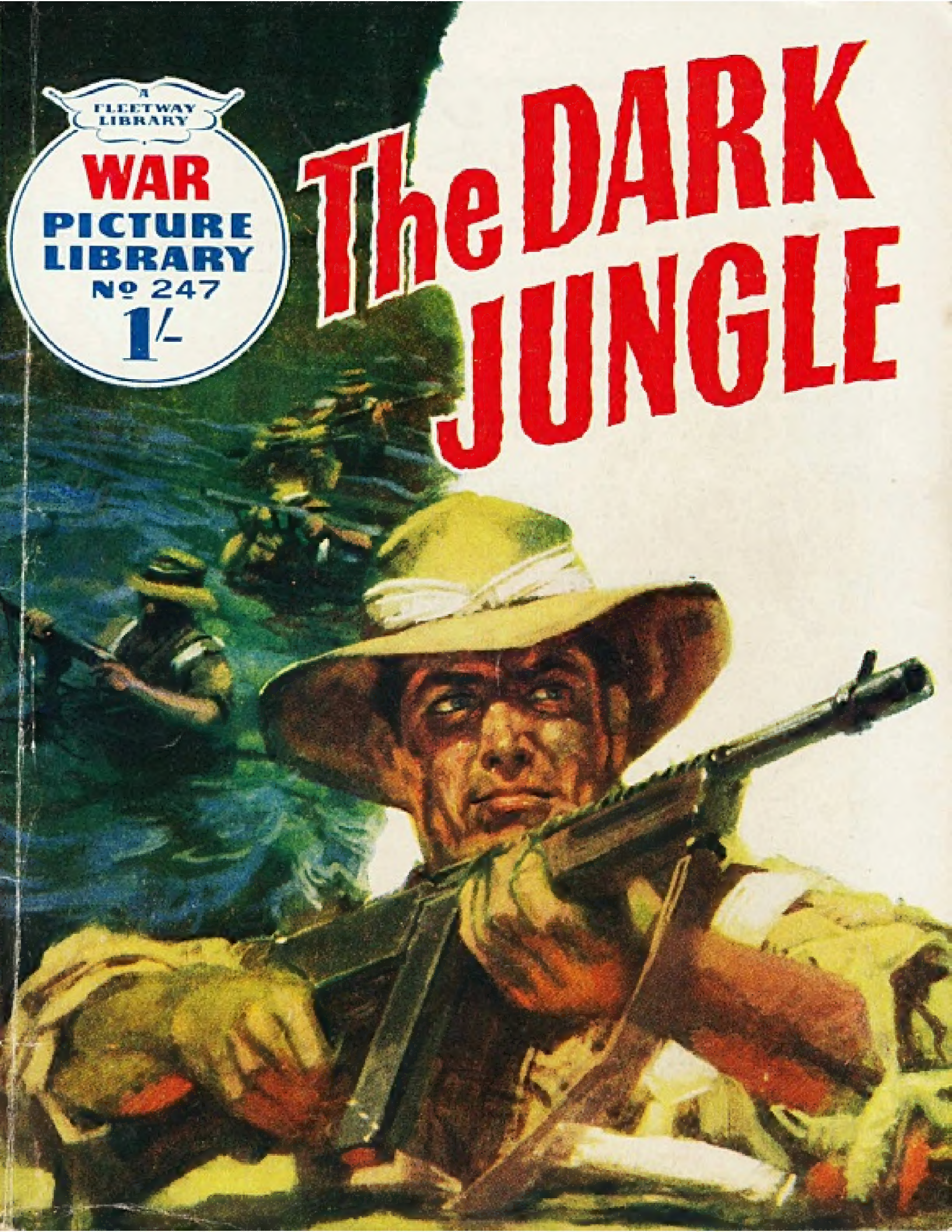
The DARK JUNGLE



ALSO ON SALE NOW
WAR PICTURE LIBRARY

No. 244—THE SIEGE

The battle-weary platoon were near to mutiny—until the stranger came to lead them back into the fight.

No. 245—BLIND JUDGMENT

Flung, untried, into the desert battle, he tried desperately to live up to the legend of his father's leadership.

No. 246—TRAIL BLAZERS

Every paratroop mission was fraught with danger—but this was the most suicidal battle drop of them all!

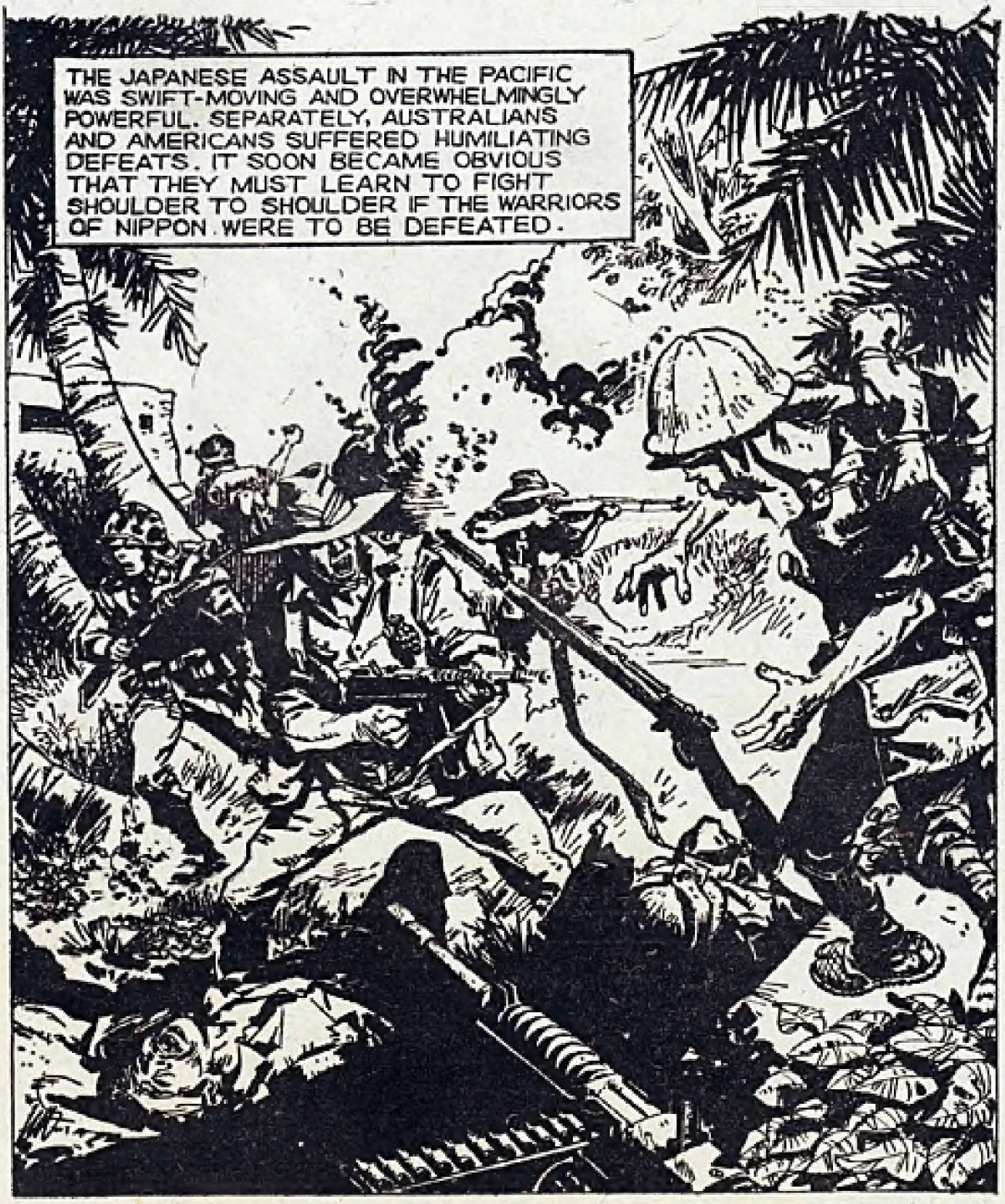
EXTRA..! EXTRA..! EXTRA..!

TOPS in holiday reading...

all-action picture-stories in EACH issue!

ON SALE NOW

THE DARK JUNGLE



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Chapter 1. *Uneasy Alliance*

A BURLY CORPORAL OF THE 398TH U.S. REGIMENT BLUSHED DEEP RED AT "SNOWY" MILLER'S SNEERING REMARK.

YOUNG JOHNNY CAIN GRABBED AT SNOWY WITH A RESTRAINING HAND...

The Dark Jungle

AS THE AUSSIES TRUDGED ON TOWARDS THEIR CAMP, "OCKER" CRAY TURNED ACCUSINGLY ON JOHNNY CAIN.

YOU CHICKENED OUT ON THAT SCRAP, DIGGER! WHAT'S THE IDEA ?

THE YANKS ARE ALL RIGHT WITH ME. IT WAS YOU BLOKES WHO PICKED A FIGHT !

WHAT MAKES YOU SO DARNED FOND OF 'EM ?

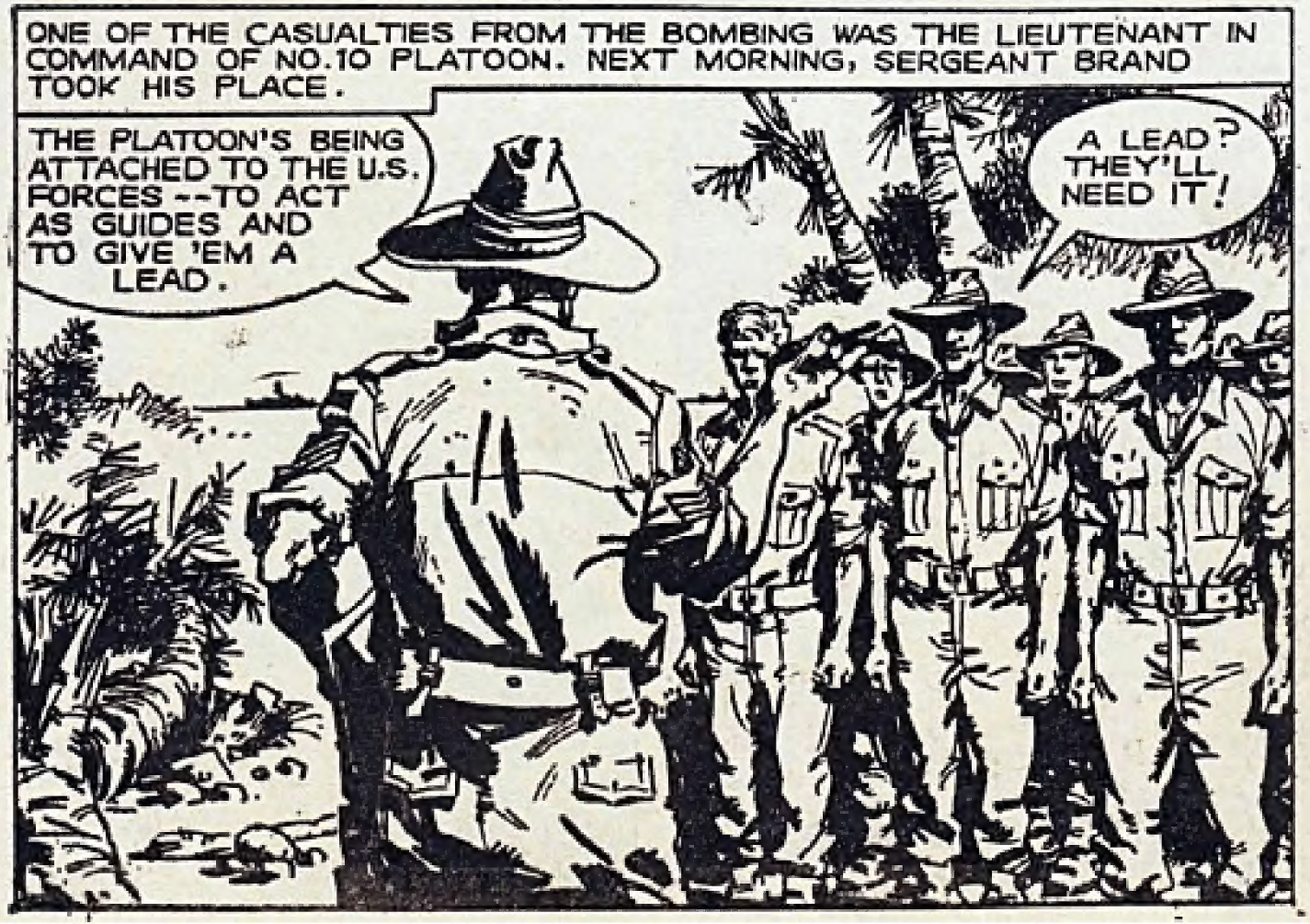
THEY SAVED MY OLD MAN WHEN HIS SHIP WAS TORPEDOED. THEN THEY FLEW HIM TO A YANK HOSPITAL IN BRISBANE AND TREATED HIM LIKE A STAR PATIENT. YOU DON'T FORGET THINGS LIKE THAT.

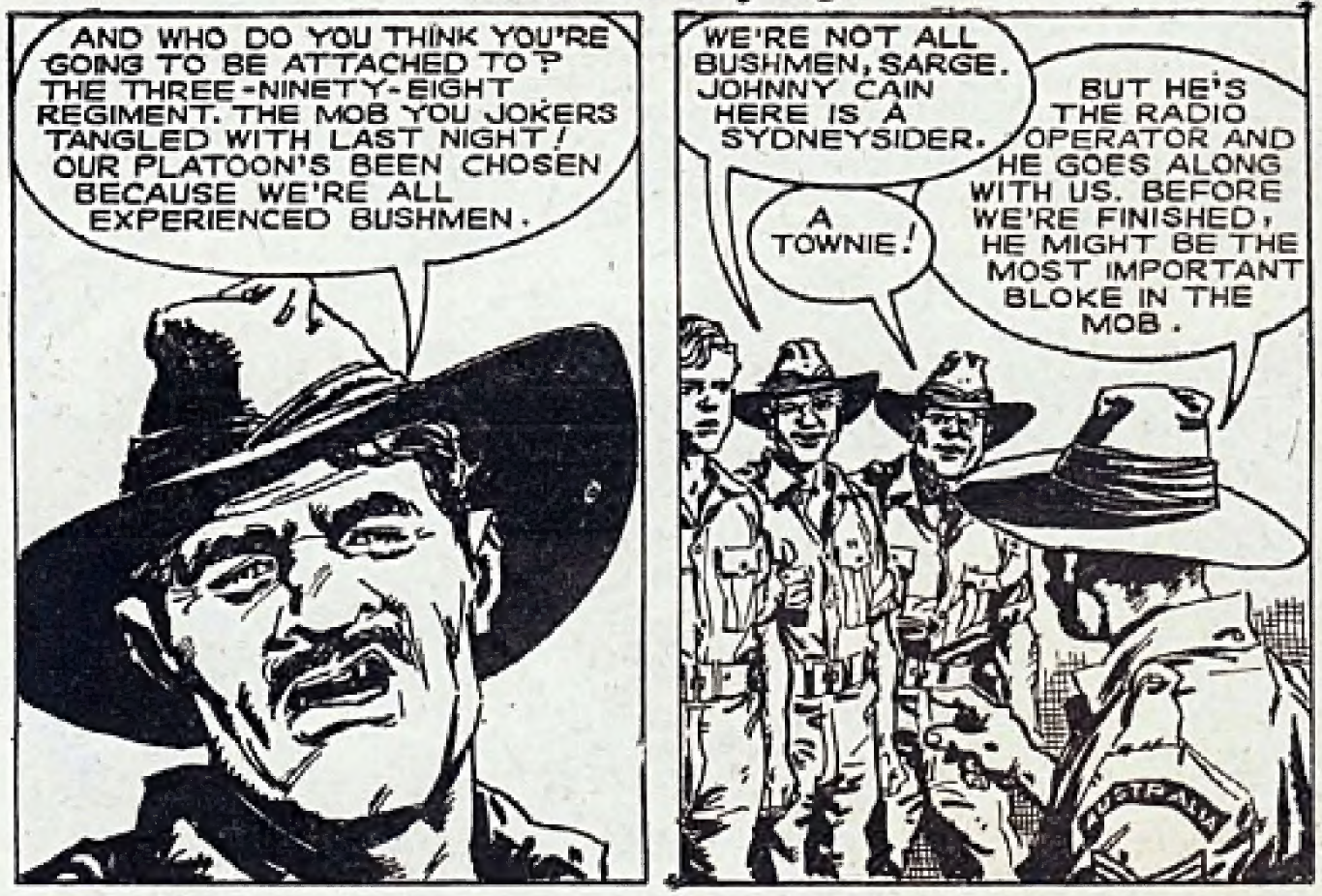
THAT NIGHT, THE DOG-TIRED DIGGERS HAD HARDLY CRAWLED INTO THEIR BIVOUACS WHEN THERE CAME THE DISTANT HUM OF AIRCRAFT.

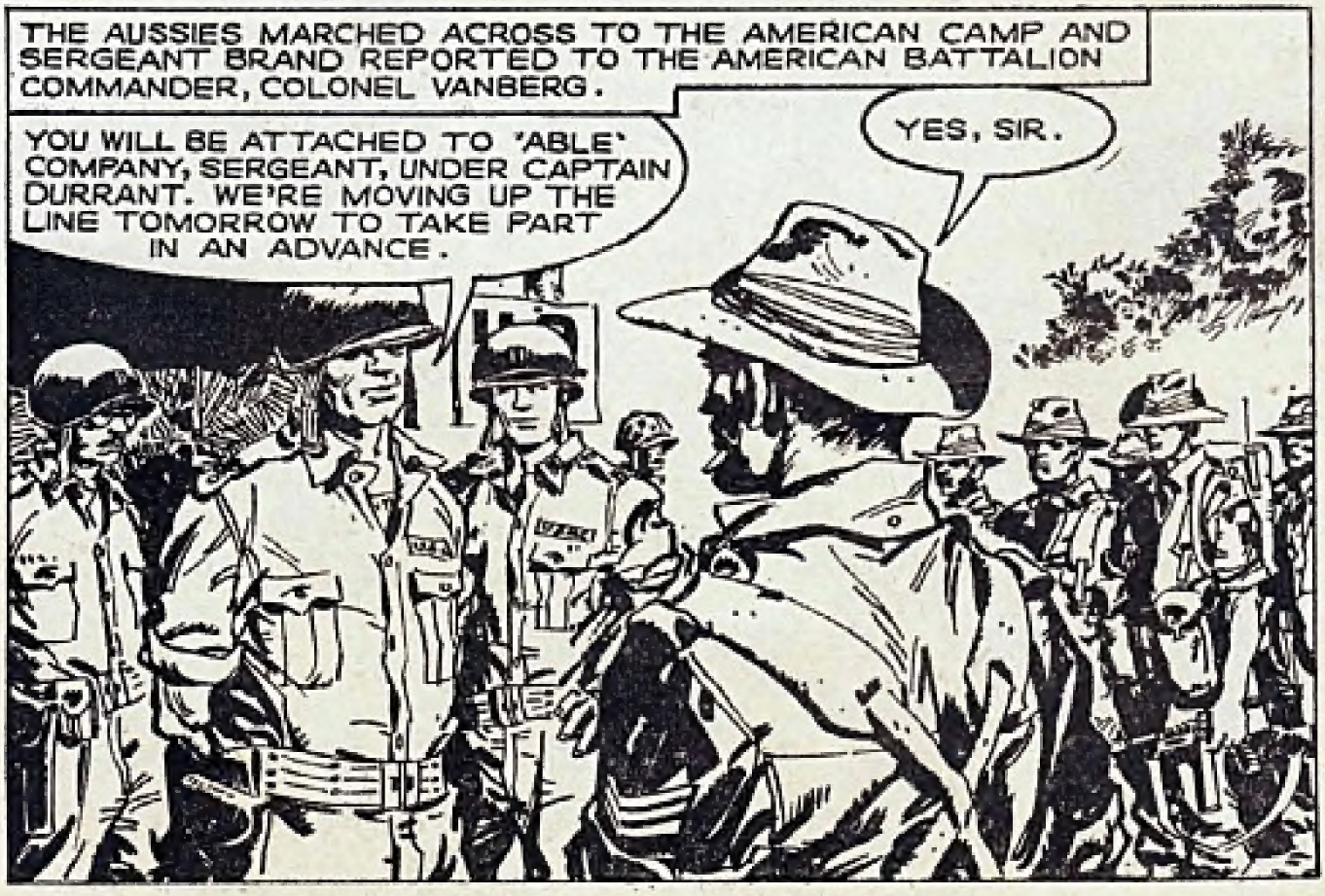
STONE ME! HERE COME THE NIPS!

THEY WON'T SPOT US. LET'S HOPE THEY UNLOAD ON THE YANKS AT KRIONA ROAD !

The Dark Jungle




AND WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO BE ATTACHED TO? THE THREE-NINETY-EIGHT REGIMENT. THE MOB YOU JOKERS TANGLED WITH LAST NIGHT! OUR PLATOON'S BEEN CHOSEN BECAUSE WE'RE ALL EXPERIENCED BUSHMEN.
WE'RE NOT ALL BUSHMEN, SARGE. JOHNNY CAIN HERE IS A SYDNEYSIDER.
A TOWNIE!
BUT HE'S THE RADIO OPERATOR AND HE GOES ALONG WITH US. BEFORE WE'RE FINISHED, HE MIGHT BE THE MOST IMPORTANT BLOKE IN THE MOB.


THE AUSSIES MARCHED ACROSS TO THE AMERICAN CAMP AND SERGEANT BRAND REPORTED TO THE AMERICAN BATTALION COMMANDER, COLONEL VANBERG.
YOU WILL BE ATTACHED TO 'ABLE' COMPANY, SERGEANT, UNDER CAPTAIN DURRANT. WE'RE MOVING UP THE LINE TOMORROW TO TAKE PART IN AN ADVANCE.
YES, SIR.

AMERICAN TRUCKS TOOK NO.10 PLATOON TO THE FRONT LINE OVER ROUGH BUSH ROADS.

WELL, THERE'S ONE THING ABOUT FIGHTING WITH THE YANKS--YOU GET A LIFT INSTEAD OF HOOFING IT LIKE WE ALWAYS HAVE TO DO!

STOP

2-32101 USA-4

USMC

THAT NIGHT, THE AUSSIES MOVED FORWARD TO TAKE OVER FROM AN AMERICAN PLATOON ON THE EXTREME RIGHT OF THE LINE.

AUSTRALI

A CONCENTRATED STRIKE BY FLYING FORTRESSES AND MUSTANGS BLASTED THE JAP POSITIONS ON SUAI RIDGE WHEN THE HOUR OF ATTACK CAME. THEN THREE AMERICAN DESTROYERS STEAMED CLOSE INSHORE AND POUNDED THE COAST DEFENCES AT ALMOST SUICIDAL RANGE.
ANY MOMENT NOW, BOYS!

A CLUSTER OF RED ROCKETS SOARED FROM ONE OF THE DESTROYERS. THE BOMBARDMENT STOPPED WITH DRAMATIC ABRUPTNESS. THE AMERICAN-AUSTRALIAN LINE SURGED FORWARD.
DON'T FORGET WE'RE TO GIVE THE YANKS A LEAD! LET'S SHOW 'EM OUR DUST!

The Dark Jungle

HE FELT NO TRACE OF FEAR AS HE FOLLOWED THE BRAWNY SERGEANT BRAND. HIS BLOOD WAS UP AND EXCITEMENT SPURRED HIM FORWARD.

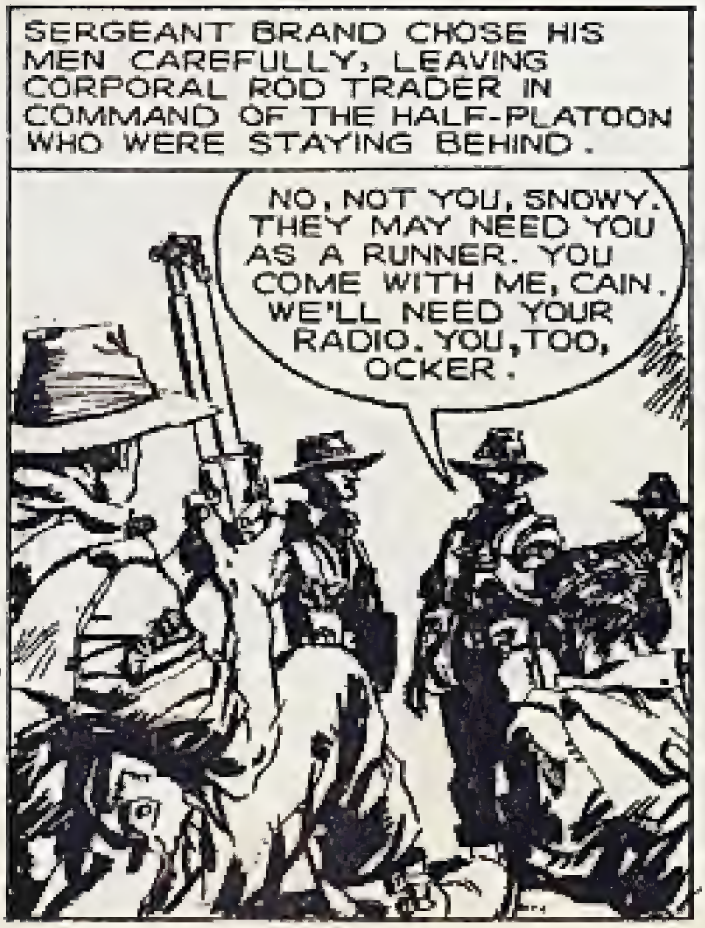
COME ON, YOU MUGS! WE'LL SHOW THESE YANKS!

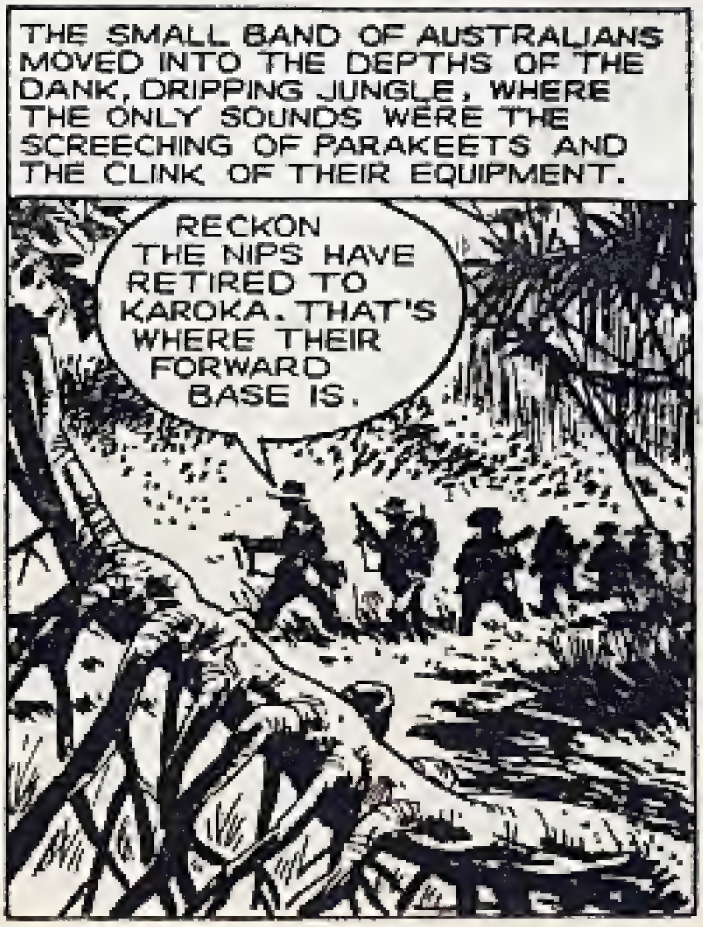
THE MOMENTUM OF THE AUSSIE'S ADVANCE CARRIED THEM CLEAN THROUGH THE DEMORALISED ENEMY TO THE TOP OF THE RIDGE, THEIR FINAL OBJECTIVE. THERE, THEY LAY AMONG THE SHATTERED JAP BUNKERS, WATCHING THE AMERICANS ADVANCE ON THEIR LEFT.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THE YANKS COULDN'T FIGHT? THEY SEEM TO BE DOING ALL RIGHT!

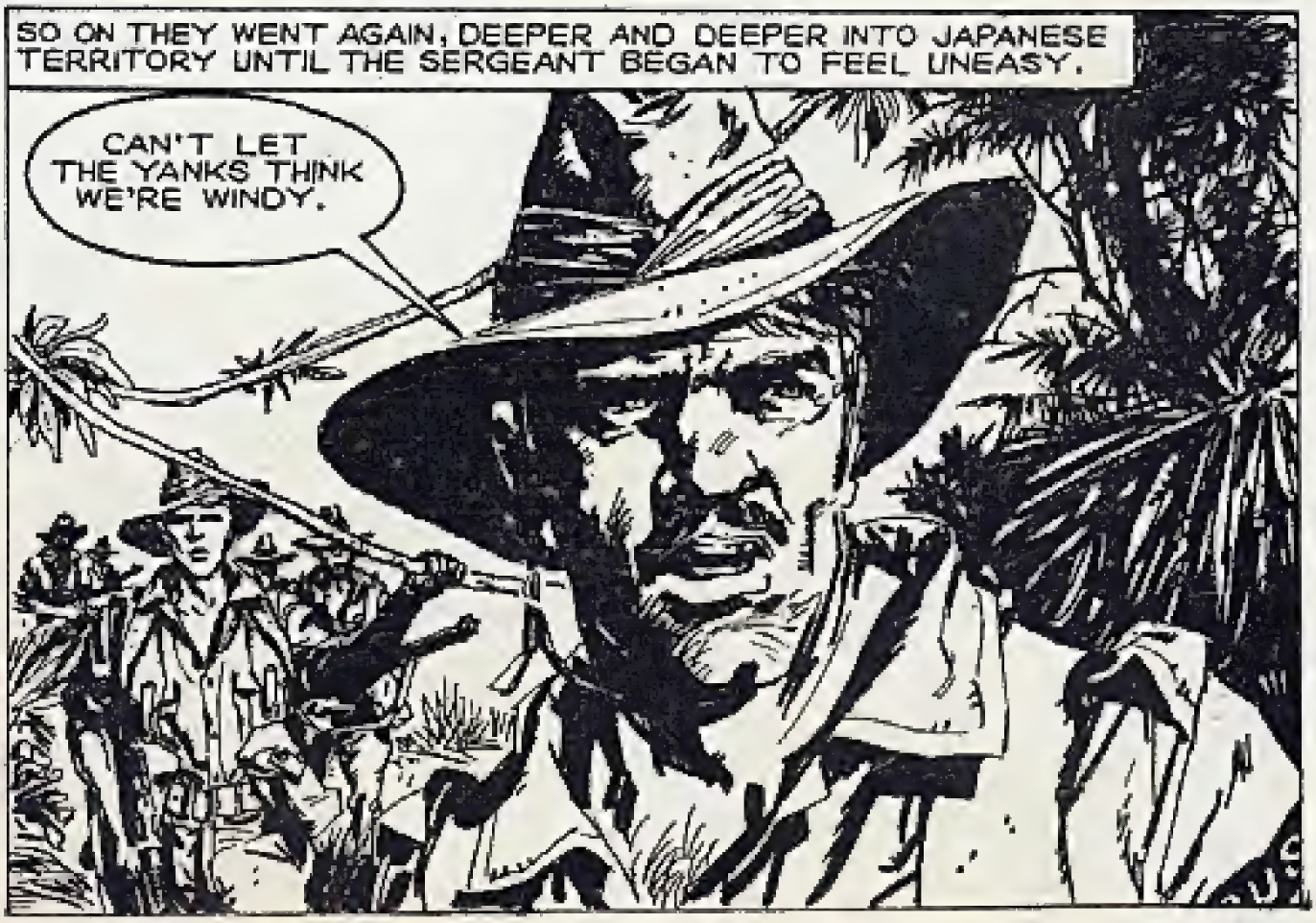
THEY'RE OKAY IF THEY'VE GOT AUSSIES TO SHOW 'EM THE WAY!

The Dark Jungle

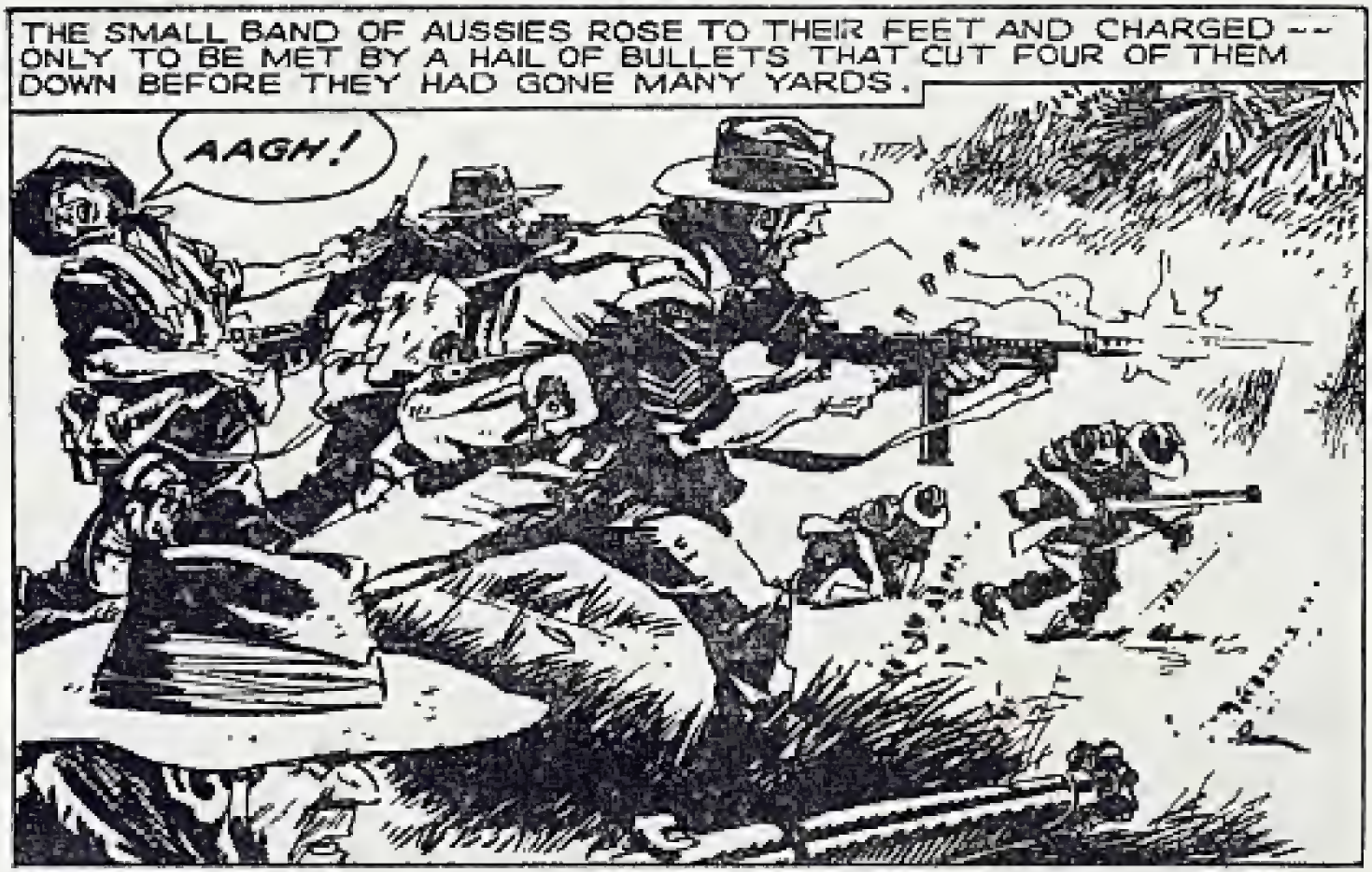




WHEN THEY REACHED SAPPHIRE CREEK, SERGEANT BRAND CALLED A HALT WHILE JOHNNY WIRELESSED BACK THEIR POSITION IN CODE.
THE REPLY FROM CAPTAIN DURRANT READS-- "PRESS ON UNTIL YOU MAKE CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY".


SO ON THEY WENT AGAIN, DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO JAPANESE TERRITORY UNTIL THE SERGEANT BEGAN TO FEEL UNEASY.
CAN'T LET THE YANKS THINK WE'RE WINDY.

The Dark Jungle


THE SMALL BAND OF AUSSIES ROSE TO THEIR FEET AND CHARGED -- ONLY TO BE MET BY A HAIL OF BULLETS THAT CUT FOUR OF THEM DOWN BEFORE THEY HAD GONE MANY YARDS.
AAGH!

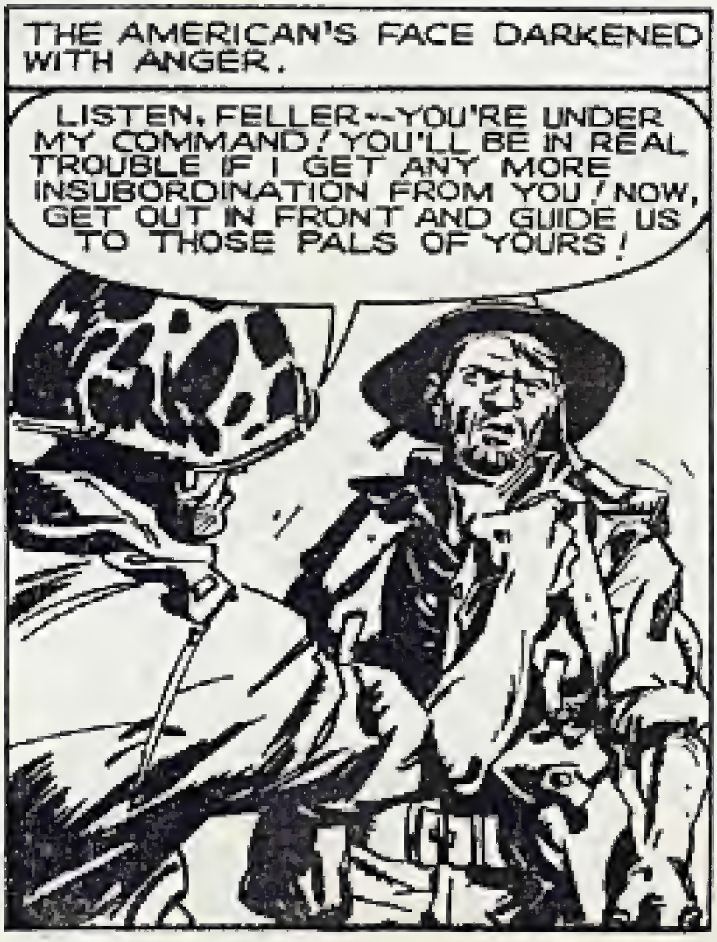
THE DIGGERS WERE FORCED TO EARTH ONCE MORE, AS BULLETS WHINED AND CRACKED ABOVE THEIR HEADS.
WE'RE UP THE CREEK, BOYS! WELL AND TRULY SURROUNDED. WE'LL HAVE TO STICK HERE TILL THE YANKS COME UP.

The Dark Jungle

DURRANT SENT FOR ONE OF HIS BEST OFFICERS, LIEUTENANT NOVAC.
WE'VE GOT TO SNATCH THOSE AUSTRALIANS OUT OF THERE SOMEHOW, NOVAC. I'M SENDING YOU WITH FORTY MEN AND AN AUSTRALIAN GUIDE. THE REST WILL BE UP TO YOU!
YES, SIR. I'LL HANDLE IT.
USN

LIEUTENANT NOVAC NATURALLY ASKED CORPORAL TRADER FOR HIS BEST SCOUT.
YOU'RE ABOUT THE BEST BUSHMAN IN OUR MOB, SNOWY, SO YOU'RE ELECTED.
I WOULD BE! IF IT WAS ANYONE BUT THE YANKS...

BEFORE HE LED HIS FORTY PICKED MEN OUT, LIEUTENANT NOVAC ADDRESSED THEM.
WELL, BOYS, THE AUSSIES HAVE GOTTEN THEMSELVES INTO A HOLE ~~ AND WE'VE GOT TO GET 'EM OUT!
THEY ONLY GOT IN A HOLE BECAUSE THEY OBEYED YOUR CAPTAIN'S COCKEYED ORDERS, COBBER.
AUST


THE AMERICAN'S FACE DARKENED WITH ANGER.
LISTEN, FELLER ~~ YOU'RE UNDER MY COMMAND! YOU'LL BE IN REAL TROUBLE IF I GET ANY MORE INSUBORDINATION FROM YOU! NOW, GET OUT IN FRONT AND GUIDE US TO THOSE PALS OF YOURS!

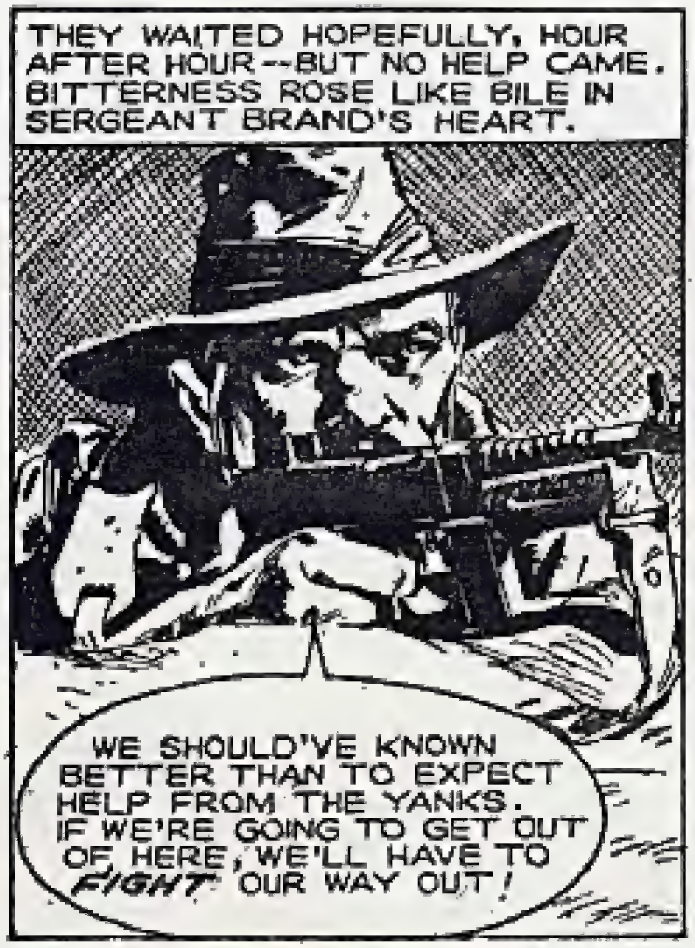
MEANWHILE, SERGEANT BRAND AND HIS MEN HELD THEIR PITIFULLY SMALL PERIMETER AND WAITED.
LET'S FACE IT, BOYS ~~ IF THE JAPS OVERRUN US AND TAKE US PRISONER WE'LL BE BETTER OFF DEAD. SO IF WE'VE GOT TO GO, WE MIGHT AS WELL GO FIGHTING!

FOR A LONG TIME, JOHNNY HAD BEEN TRYING TO PICK UP SIGNALS FROM BASE AND AT LAST HE GAVE A CRY OF TRIUMPH.
HELP IS COMING. A FORCE HAS BEEN SENT TO OUR RELIEF AND SHOULD REACH US SOME TIME TONIGHT.
TONIGHT? THAT MAY VERY WELL BE TOO LATE!

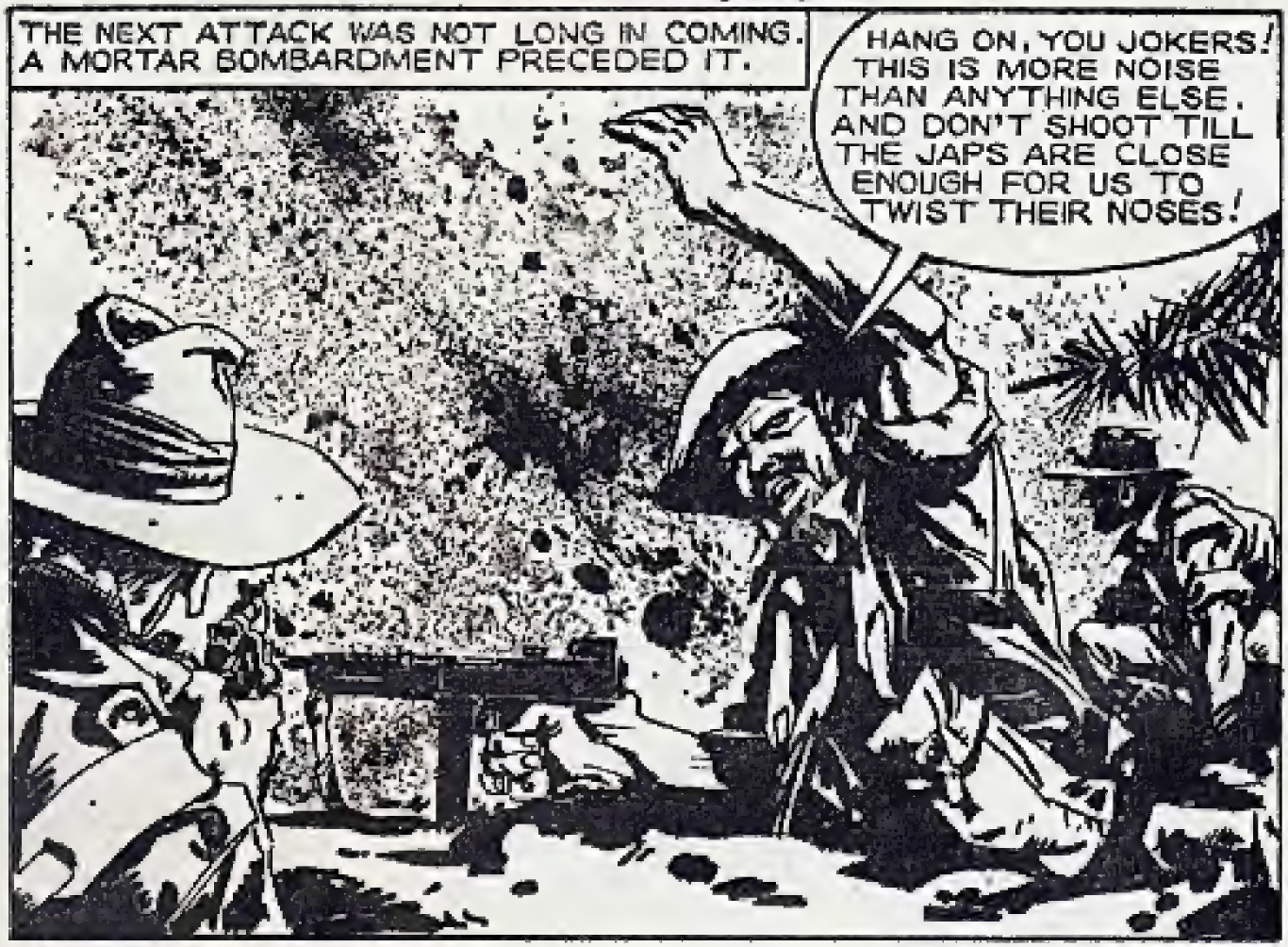
TEN MINUTES LATER, THE BATTLE WAS ON. THE JAPANESE ROSE FROM THE JUNGLE ON ALL SIDES AND RUSHED FORWARD, SCREAMING THEIR SHRILL WAR CRIES.
BANZAI! BANZAI!

The Dark Jungle

FOR A LONG TIME, THE JUNGLE WAS SILENT AGAIN. THEN THE AUSSIES HEARD AN OUTBREAK OF FIRING ON THEIR LEFT FLANK. A ROARING CRESCENDO OF AUTOMATIC FIRE THAT DIED AS SUDDENLY AS IT HAD BEGUN.
WHAT WAS THAT, SARGE?
COULD BE THE YANKS FIGHTING THEIR WAY TOWARDS US. DON'T SUPPOSE THEY'LL GET HERE WITHOUT RUNNING INTO A BIT OF A SCRAP.


THEY WAITED HOPEFULLY, HOUR AFTER HOUR--BUT NO HELP CAME. BITTERNESS ROSE LIKE BILE IN SERGEANT BRAND'S HEART.
WE SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO EXPECT HELP FROM THE YANKS. IF WE'RE GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE, WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT OUR WAY OUT!

I DON'T RECKON THE JAPS CAN BE IN ANY GREAT STRENGTH HERE OR THEY'D HAVE OVERWHELMED US BY NOW. NEXT TIME THEY TRY TO RUSH US WE'LL BEAT 'EM OFF--THEN CHARGE THROUGH 'EM!
GOOD ON YER, BRANDY! I LIKE THE SOUND OF IT.
YEAH, LET'S GIVE IT A SPIN!


THE NEXT ATTACK WAS NOT LONG IN COMING. A MORTAR BOMBARDMENT PRECEDED IT.
HANG ON, YOU JOKERS! THIS IS MORE NOISE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. AND DON'T SHOOT TILL THE JAPS ARE CLOSE ENOUGH FOR US TO TWIST THEIR NOSES!

WHEN THE JAPS CHARGED -- THE AUSSIES HELD THEIR FIRE TO THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT.

SHAKEN BY THAT MURDEROUS FUSILLADE, THE ENEMY SURVIVORS STUMBLED BACK TOWARDS THEIR LINES --AND THEN THE AUSSIES NIT THEM!

ONLY WHEN THEY REACHED THE EDGE OF A SMALL PLANTATION HALF-A-MILE FARTHER ON DID THE AUSSIES PAUSE FOR BREATH.
CLARK, HEDLEY AND O'BRIEN MISSING FROM THAT LAST CHARGE. COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE.
LET'S HOPE THE POOR DEVILS WERE KILLED!

THEN BRAND STARTED TO LEAD THE WAY BACK TOWARDS THE SOUTH-WEST. BUT HE HAD HARDLY GONE THREE HUNDRED YARDS BEFORE HE HEARD SOMETHING MOVING AHEAD.

FREEZE, FELLERS! COULD BE A JAP PATROL!

A FIGURE STUMBLED OUT OF THE DAPPLED SHADOWS OF THE JUNGLE -- AND AN EXCLAMATION BURST FROM THE SERGEANT.

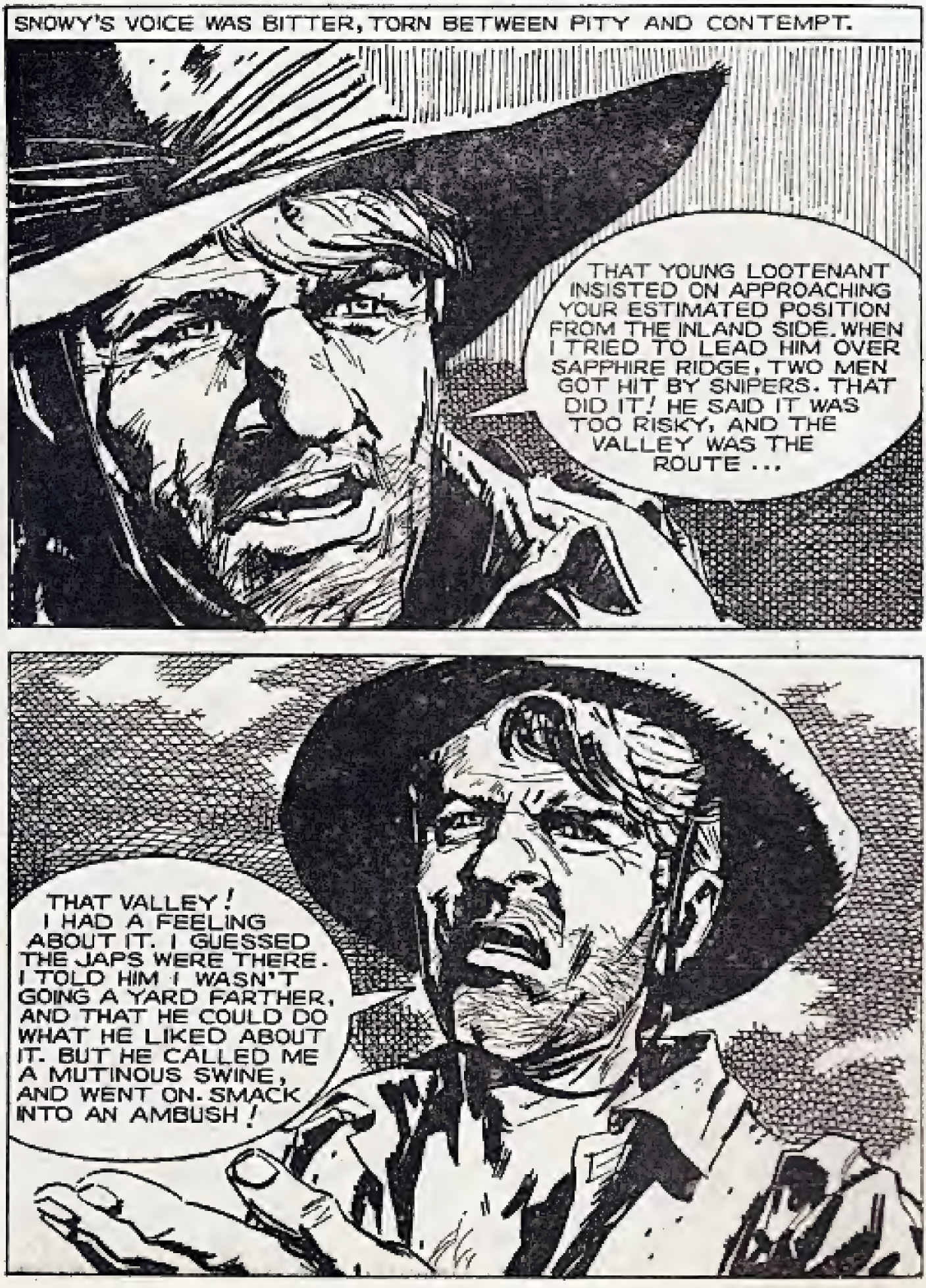
STONE THE CROWS! IT'S SNOWY!

SNOWY MILLER HALTED ABRUPTLY, AND HIS GAUNT FACE SPLIT INTO A GRIN.

AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU JOKERS! I THOUGHT YOU'D HAD IT.

QUESTIONS SHOWERED ON SNOWY...
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHERE ARE THE YANKS?
BELT UP, YOU MUGS, AND SAVE THE EAR-BASHING TILL WE GET FARTHER AWAY FROM THE JAPS!

IT WAS SOME TIME BEFORE THE SERGEANT HALTED THE PATROL AND LET SNOWY SPEAK...
THOSE POOR, DUMB YANKS! WELL, THEY PAID FOR IT. I TRIED TO STOP 'EM, BUT THE LIEUTENANT WOULDN'T HAVE IT. THEY WERE WIPED OUT--TO A MAN!
WIPED OUT? FOR THE LOVE OF PETE, HOW? TELL US, MAN!


SNOWY'S VOICE WAS BITTER, TORN BETWEEN PITY AND CONTEMPT.
THAT YOUNG LOOTENANT INSISTED ON APPROACHING YOUR ESTIMATED POSITION FROM THE INLAND SIDE. WHEN I TRIED TO LEAD HIM OVER SAPPHIRE RIDGE, TWO MEN GOT HIT BY SNIPERS. THAT DID IT! HE SAID IT WAS TOO RISKY, AND THE VALLEY WAS THE ROUTE ...
THAT VALLEY! I HAD A FEELING ABOUT IT. I GUESSED THE JAPS WERE THERE. I TOLD HIM I WASN'T GOING A YARD FARTHER, AND THAT HE COULD DO WHAT HE LIKED ABOUT IT. BUT HE CALLED ME A MUTINOUS SWINE, AND WENT ON. SMACK INTO AN AMBUSH!

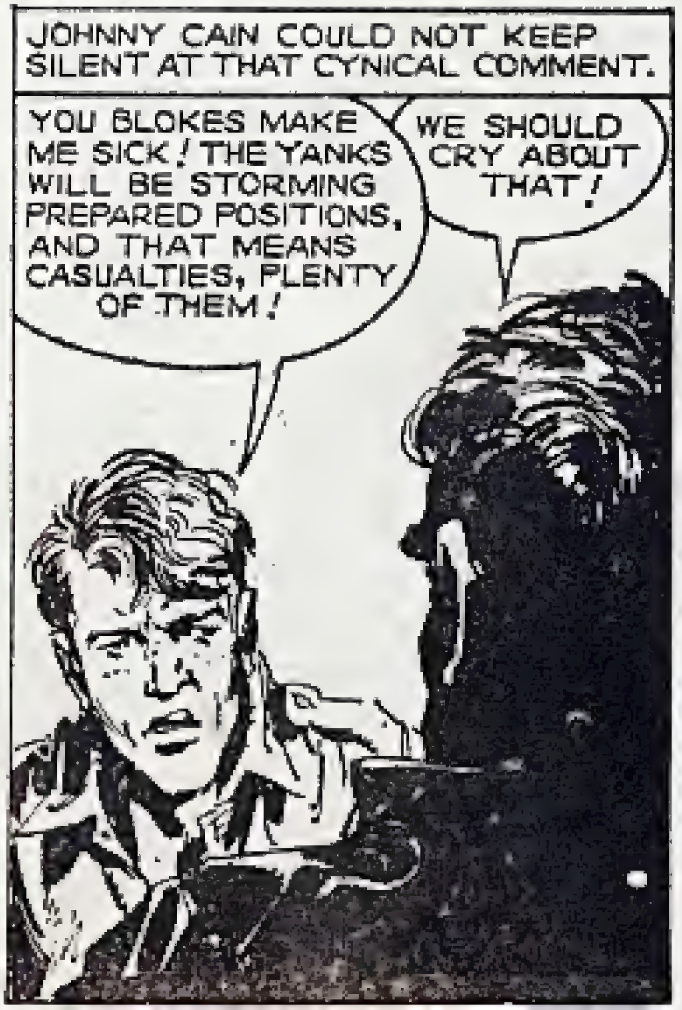
AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO GOT AWAY?
TOO RIGHT! I DID WHAT I COULD AND PICKED OFF SOME OF THE NIPS. BUT THEY HAD THE YANKS COLD. THEY SHOT 'EM DOWN AS THEY RAN ABOUT IN THE MOONLIGHT.

WHEN THE PATROL MOVED ON AGAIN, SNOWY RANGED ALONGSIDE JOHNNY.
WELL, WHAT ABOUT IT NOW, JOHNNY? WE'RE NEVER GOING TO WIN THIS WAR IF WE'VE GOT TO RELY ON THE YANKS!
THEY'RE ALL RIGHT. THEY MAKE MISTAKES, SAME AS ALL OF US. BUT THEY'VE GOT GUTS AND DRIVE.

Chapter 2. Behind Enemy Lines

WHEN REINFORCEMENTS HAD ARRIVED FOR THE AUSTRALIANS, THEY WERE BRIEFED BY AN AMERICAN STAFF OFFICER FOR THEIR NEXT TASK...
...AND WHILE THE WHOLE OF THE U.S. DIVISION GETS READY TO BREAK THROUGH THE JAP POSITION IN THE COASTAL SECTOR, YOUR COMPANY WILL BE LANDED BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES HERE AT JALOLO BAY. YOU WILL DISRUPT HIS COMMUNICATIONS AND CAUSE CONFUSION ...

TRUST THE YANKS TO GIVE US THE STICKY JOB. WHILE THEY SIT BACK, WE GO IN AND SOFTEN UP THE JAPS FOR 'EM!
ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS WALK IN AND TAKE THE GLORY!

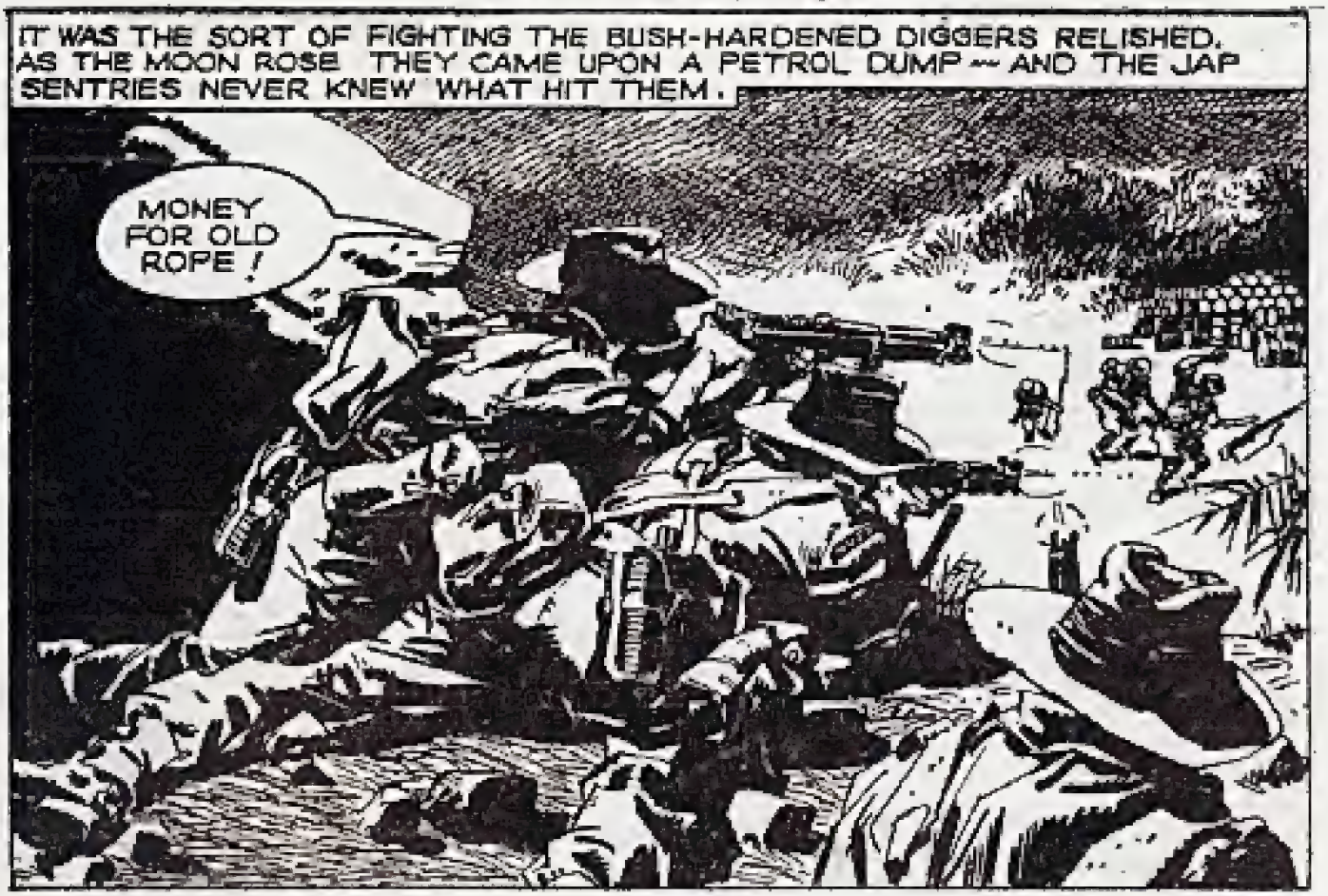

JOHNNY CAIN COULD NOT KEEP SILENT AT THAT CYNICAL COMMENT.
YOU BLOKES MAKE ME SICK! THE YANKS WILL BE STORMING PREPARED POSITIONS, AND THAT MEANS CASUALTIES, PLENTY OF THEM!
WE SHOULD CRY ABOUT THAT!

The Dark Jungle

MANY OF NO.10 PLATOON DIED AS THEY BRAVED THAT TORNADO OF FIRE. A BITTER OATH BURST FROM SNOWY MILLER...
I KNEW IT! THEY WERE WAITING FOR US!

USING EVERY SCRAP OF COVER, SERGEANT BRAND TOOK THE SURVIVORS OFF THE BEACH, BY-PASSING ENEMY STRONGPOINTS UNTIL THEY GATHERED AT A DESERTED VILLAGE.
COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE, BOYS. NOW WE HEAD INLAND AND RAISE ALL THE HELL WE CAN. THE OTHER PLATOONS WILL ACT INDEPENDENTLY.

The Dark Jungle



THE JAPS, SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE FLAMES AS THEY TRIED TO PUT OUT THE FIRE MADE PERFECT TARGETS...
WE OUGHT TO KEEP A SCORE CARD!
MILES AWAY TO THE WEST AND SOUTH, THE NIGHT SKY WAS SUDDENLY AFLAME WITH A FLASH OF GUNS. A ROLLING CANNONADE ECHOED OVER THE JUNGLE-CLAD SLOPES OF THE HILLS.
HEAR THAT? THAT'S THE YANKS GOING IN!

SOON AFTER DAWN, THE PLATOON CAME UPON A NEWLY CUT ROAD AND AMBUSHED A REINFORCEMENTS CONVOY RACING TOWARDS THE BEACHHEAD.

The Dark Jungle

BRAND KNEW THAT TO ATTEMPT TO AMBUSH SO MANY WOULD BE SUICIDE.

I'D LIKE A CRACK AT THEM-- BUT WE CAN'T RISK IT!

THE JAP COLUMN FILED ENDLESSLY PAST. THEN THE AUSTRALIANS SAW WITH HORROR ANOTHER COLUMN OF MEN STUMBLING ALONG IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION -- WEARY, HAGGARD MEN ...

PRISONERS! YANK PRISONERS, AND WITH THE THREE-NINE-EIGHT SHOULDER FLASH...

THE ENEMY DISAPPEARED ALONG THE TRACK LEAVING THE FILE OF PRISONERS TO TRUDGE ON UNDER A FEW GUARDS. NOT AN AUSSIE MOVED AND A LOW, HARSH PROTEST BROKE FROM JOHNNY CAIN.

SARGE--AREN'T WE GOING TO DO ANYTHING?

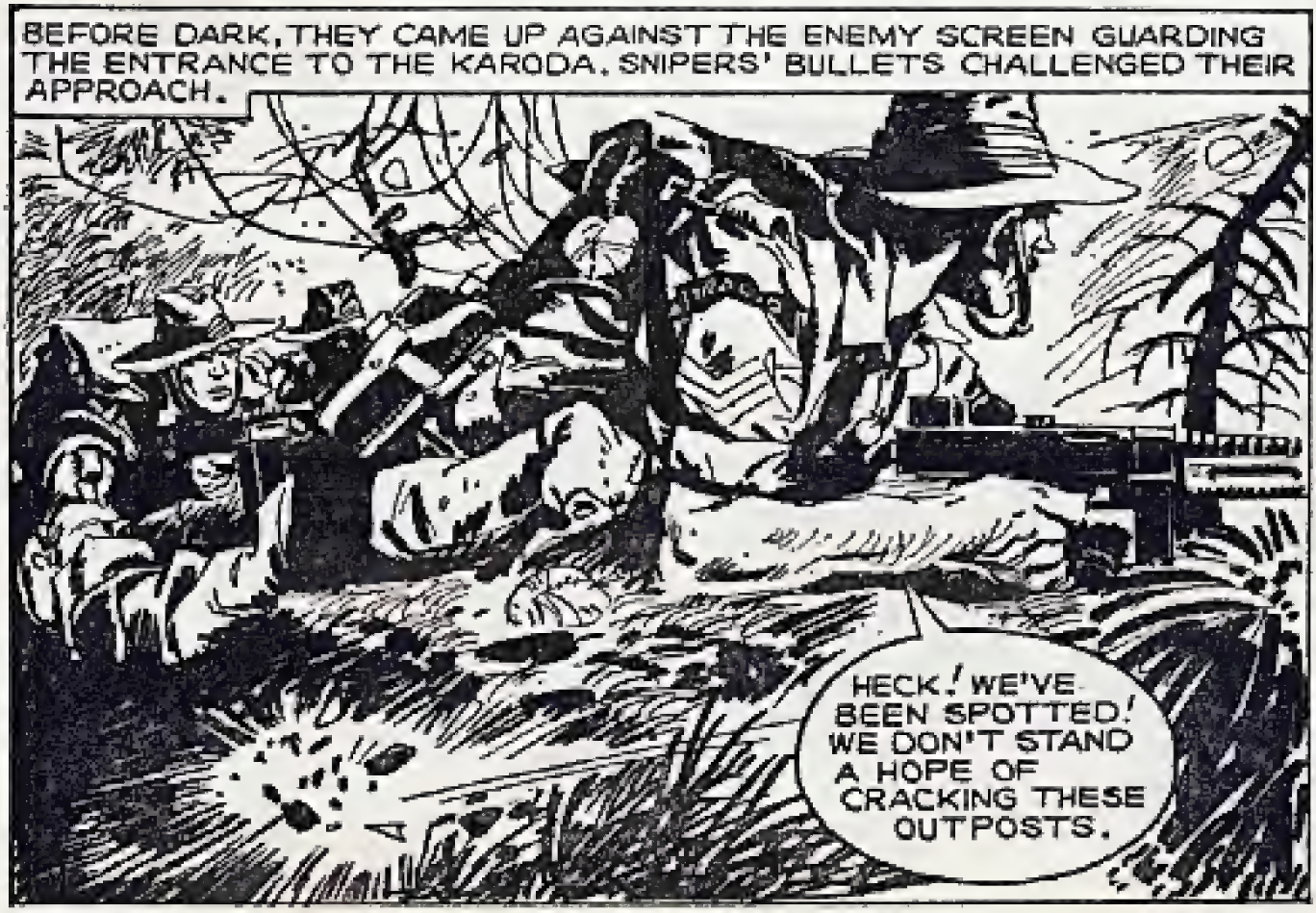
DO--WHAT COULD WE DO?

The Dark Jungle

ANOTHER BRAIN-STORM LIKE THAT, CAIN, AND I'LL PUT A BULLET THROUGH YOU. DON'T THINK I WOULDN'T! YOU'RE A MENACE!

BUT FROM THAT MOMENT, JOHNNY SENSED THE UNEASINESS IN THE OTHER MEN'S MINDS AS THEY TRIED TO PERSUADE THEMSELVES THAT THE PRISONERS WOULD BE ALL RIGHT.
THOSE TALES ABOUT THE NIPS TORTURING THEIR PRISONERS -- I BET IT DON'T HAPPEN OFTEN.
NO, THOSE YANKS WILL BE OKAY.
EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT, THERE'S NOTHING WE COULD HAVE DONE ABOUT IT.

AT THEIR NEXT HALT, JOHNNY RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM AMERICAN FORWARD H.Q.
WE'RE TO RECCE KARODA GORGE AND SIGNAL BACK IF THERE ARE ANY ENEMY CONCENTRATIONS THERE. AIRCRAFT CAN'T SPOT ANYTHING IN THE GORGE, THE SCRUB IS SO THICK.
THESE FLAMING YANKS ARE PICKING OUT SOME SWEET JOBS FOR US!


BEFORE DARK, THEY CAME UP AGAINST THE ENEMY SCREEN GUARDING THE ENTRANCE TO THE KARODA. SNIPERS' BULLETS CHALLENGED THEIR APPROACH.
HECK! WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED! WE DON'T STAND A HOPE OF CRACKING THESE OUTPOSTS.

THE SERGEANT CALLED JOHNNY AND SNOWY FORWARD.
TWO MEN COULD SLIP THROUGH WHERE A PLATOON WOULD HAVE TO FIGHT. YOU'RE THE RADIO MAN, CAIN-- AND YOU'RE THE EXPERT GUIDE, MILLER. IT'S UP TO YOU TWO JOKERS!
ME AND A GREEN SYDNEY COOT, EH? OH WELL, I SUPPOSE IT'S ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK.

AS SOON AS IT WAS DARK, THE TWO MEN SET OFF ON THEIR DESPERATE MISSION. JOHNNY CRAWLED AT SNOWY'S HEELS, FOLLOWING THE BUSHMAN'S EVERY MOVEMENT.

IT WAS A LONG, PERILOUS JOURNEY WITH DEATH WAITING BEHIND EVERY BUSH.

I THINK WE'RE NEAR THE GORGE. YOU STAY HERE ~~ I'LL GO FORWARD TO HAVE A LOOK-SEE.

OKAY!

BUT SOMETHING WAS WORRYING JOHNNY AND IT WAS NOT THEIR CLOSENESS TO THE ENEMY. THERE HAD BEEN A STRANGE UNEASINESS IN THE BUSHMAN'S MANNER.

IT ISN'T LIKE SNOWY TO BE WINDY. HE'S USUALLY GOT NERVES LIKE STEEL. THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG!

THEN, AGAINST ORDERS, JOHNNY BEGAN TO CRAWL AFTER HIS COMPANION.

AT THAT MOMENT, SNOWY HAD REACHED THE EDGE OF THE GORGE AND WAS FLASHING AN ELECTRIC TORCH ON AND OFF, APPARENTLY SIGNALLING.

IF IT WAS A SIGNAL, THERE WAS NO ANSWERING LIGHT AND SNOWY MILLER EDGED TO A NEW POSITION. THEN, WITH HEART-STOPPING SUDDENNESS...
AAGH!

JOHNNY HEARD THAT CRY AND HURRIED FORWARD TO THE RIM OF THE CHASM. A GROAN OF PAIN CAME FROM SOMEWHERE BELOW AND HE BEGAN TO CLIMB CAUTIOUSLY DOWNWARDS.

The Dark Jungle

Chapter 3. Jungle Treachery

WAIT A MINUTE, JOHNNY! I'M NOT DEAD SURE THIS IS THE KARODA GORGE. IT MAY BE THE RAMU, AN OFFSHOOT OF IT. WE DON'T WANT TO GIVE WRONG INFO. HELP ME ALONG A BIT AND I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL FOR CERTAIN.

WHATEVER YOU SAY, SNOWY. BUT CAN YOU STICK IT OUT?
I'LL HAVE TO, MATE-- IT'S THE ONLY WAY...

SO THEY STUMBLED ON SLOWLY, SNOWY RELYING ON JOHNNY'S STRENGTH, AND JOHNNY ON SNOWY'S SENSE OF DIRECTION.

THEY WERE WADING SLOWLY ACROSS A SWAMP WHEN THE WALL OF UNDERGROWTH FACING THEM PARTED SUDDENLY. THREE JAPS EMERGED.

LOOK OUT! JAPS!

SNOWY SHOUTED SOMETHING JOHNNY DID NOT CATCH. IT WAS A FATAL SLIP, FOR THE LEADING JAP WAS TENSE AND TRIGGER-HAPPY. HIS AUTOMATIC WEAPON STUTTERED FRANTICALLY.

ACHTUNG! ICH BIN.... AAGH!

ONE OF THE HASTILY AIMED BULLETS CAUGHT THE BUSHMAN AND HE TOPPLED SIDEWAYS.

JOHNNY TOOK LIGHTNING AIM AND FIRED IN ONE SWIFT MOVEMENT. THE BURST FELLED THE LEADING JAP, AND THE OTHERS SCUTTLED BACK TOWARDS THE JUNGLE.
AAAGH!

BY THE TIME JOHNNY TURNED TO SNOWY, THE WOUNDED MAN WAS ALMOST SUBMERGED IN THE TREACHEROUS OOZE.

GOOD JOB THESE NIPS ARE SUCH ROTTEN SHOTS!

SNOWY WAS BABBLING IN DELIRIUM WHILE JOHNNY DRAGGED HIM UNDER COVER. AS HE LISTENED, THE YOUNG SYDNEYSIDER GASPED IN AMAZEMENT.

HE'S TALKING IN *GERMAN!*

SNOWY'S GAZE FOCUSSED PAINFULLY ON JOHNNY, THEN HE GAVE A STRANGE HALF-SMILE...

YOU COULD HAVE LEFT ME--TO DROWN. YOU'RE A GOOD KID--JOHNNY. AND I WAS GOIN' TO LET THE NIPS HAVE YOU!

AS THE DYING MAN RAMBLED ON, JOHNNY LISTENED INCREDULOUSLY.
YOU--YOU'RE A GERMAN?
REAL NAME--GERHARDT MUELLER. FROM THE GERMAN SETTLEMENT IN LOWOOD. WHEN THE JAPS CAME IN, THEY ORDERED US TO WORK FOR THEM. CAUSE AS MUCH TROUBLE--BETWEEN AUSSIES AND YANKS...

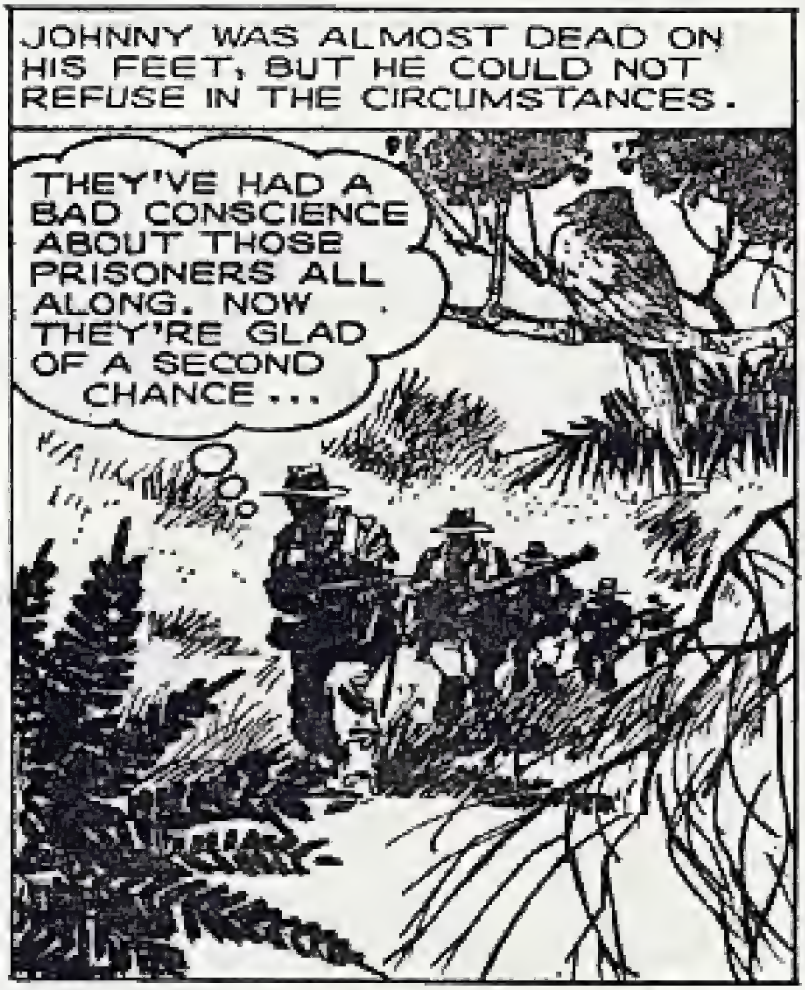
THEN YOU WERE LYING ABOUT THE GORGE? THIS *IS* THE KARODA?
KARODA GORGE--TOO RIGHT...

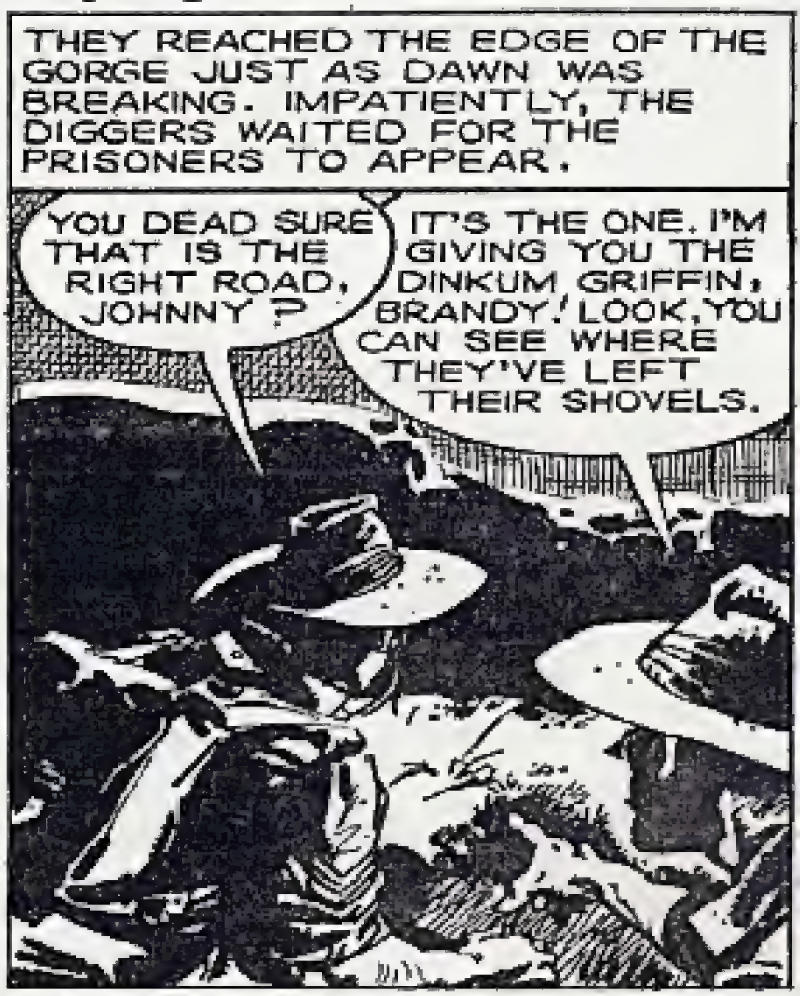
MANY THINGS THAT HAD PUZZLED JOHNNY BEFORE BECAME CLEAR NOW. IT WAS ALWAYS SNOWY WHO HAD STOKED THE FIRES OF HATRED BETWEEN THE DIGGERS AND THE YANKS. THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE.
YOU LED THE YANKS INTO THE JAP AMBUSH THAT TIME, DIDN'T YOU? YOU GOT 'EM MASSACRED?
THEY'RE ENEMIES--LIKE YOU AND THE REST OF THEM! ENEMIES--AND WE'RE GOING TO BEAT YOU!

JOHNNY TURNED AWAY THEN AND BEGAN TO SEND OUT HIS VITAL MESSAGE TO THE AMERICAN BASE.
I MAKE IT... KARODA GORGE CRAMMED WITH JAPS. ENEMY OBVIOUSLY CONCENTRATING.
GOOD! FLETCHER, GET ON TO AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS...

BY THE TIME JOHNNY HAD FINISHED GETTING HIS MESSAGE THROUGH, SNOWY MUELLER WAS DEAD.
I SUPPOSE HE FOUGHT FOR HIS OWN SIDE. MAYBE IF I'D BEEN A GERMAN, I'D HAVE DONE THE SAME.

The Dark Jungle


JOHNNY WAS ALMOST DEAD ON HIS FEET, BUT HE COULD NOT REFUSE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
THEY'VE HAD A BAD CONSCIENCE ABOUT THOSE PRISONERS ALL ALONG. NOW THEY'RE GLAD OF A SECOND CHANCE...


THEY REACHED THE EDGE OF THE GORGE JUST AS DAWN WAS BREAKING. IMPATIENTLY, THE DIGGERS WAITED FOR THE PRISONERS TO APPEAR.
YOU DEAD SURE THAT IS THE RIGHT ROAD, JOHNNY?
IT'S THE ONE. I'M GIVING YOU THE DINKUM GRIFFIN, BRANDY! LOOK, YOU CAN SEE WHERE THEY'VE LEFT THEIR SHOVELS.

A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE FILE OF WEARY YANKS APPEARED, HUSTLED AND PRODDED ALONG BY THEIR GUARDS.
GOOD-O! LISTEN, BOYS ~~WE EACH PICK OUT A JAP, OPEN FIRE, AND THEN RUSH DOWN TO JOIN THE YANKS.
AND THAT'S WHEN OUR TROUBLES WILL START!

SERGEANT BRAND WAITED FOR THE JAPANESE GUARDS TO RELAX INTO THEIR ROUTINE FOR THE DAY. THEN HE GAVE THE SIGNAL ...
NOW!

NEXT MOMENT, THE DIGGERS WERE CHARGING HEADLONG DOWN THE SLOPE ...
COME ON, TANKS -- THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! BUST LOOSE!

THE OUTBURST OF FIRING BROUGHT ARMED JAPS RUSHING FROM A NEARBY CAMP, SCREAMING IN FURY. BUT AFTER ONE MOMENT OF STUNNED SURPRISE, THE AMERICANS JOINED IN THE FIGHT.

THEN AMERICANS AND AUSTRALIANS WERE DASHING FOR THE SHELTER OF THE THICK JUNGLE. BUT EVEN AS THEY RAN, THE SKY WAS SUDDENLY FILLED WITH THE ROAR OF AIRCRAFT, AND AMERICAN FORTRESSES AND MUSTANGS DELUGED THE KARODA GORGE WITH A TORRENT OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES.
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OUT OF THERE JUST IN TIME!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, AUSSIE! THERE'S NO GOING BACK NOW!

The Dark Jungle

THE WEARY DIGGERS AND GAUNT, DESPERATE YANKS ADVANCED GRIMLY UP THE SLOPE TO BLAST THEIR WAY THROUGH A COMPANY OF A CRACK JAPANESE REGIMENT. IN THE DIN AND FURY OF THAT SAVAGE BATTLE, THEY FOUND A NEW COMRADESHIP...

DAYS LATER, AFTER THE BIG AMERICAN ADVANCE HAD SWEPT SEVEN MILES BEYOND THE KARODA GORGE, A PROUD MOMENT CAME TO THE QUEENSLAND MILITIA. THEIR AMERICAN ALLIES DID THEM A GREAT HONOUR.
BY ORDER OF OUR COMMANDING GENERAL, THESE COLOURS ARE HEREBY BESTOWED UPON THE NINE-O-SIX BATTALION AUSTRALIAN MILITIA, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR GREAT SERVICES TO THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES...

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